

# Encyclopedia of Women in Islam and Modern Science

## Introduction:

Islam has given women a status of honor, dignity, and respect unmatched by any other system. The Qur'an and Hadith emphasize women's rights, education, and equality in faith and moral responsibility. While pre-Islamic societies viewed women as inferior, Islam elevated them as mothers, daughters, wives, and sisters with defined rights and responsibilities. Modern science and psychology now recognize the balance, wisdom, and protection Islam provides for women's physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

## Women in the Qur'an:

The Qur'an speaks with respect about women and emphasizes equality in spirituality. Allah says: 'Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim women, the believing men and believing women, the obedient men and obedient women... Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward.' (Surah Al-Ahzab 33:35). Women are equally accountable for their deeds and rewarded for their righteousness. The Qur'an also highlights great women such as Maryam (Mary), the mother of Isa (Jesus), and Asiya, the wife of Pharaoh, as examples of faith and patience.

## Women in Hadith:

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ always treated women with kindness and respect. He said: 'The best of you are those who are best to their wives.' (Tirmidhi 3895). He also emphasized the value of daughters, saying: 'Whoever raises two daughters with good upbringing will be with me in Paradise.' (Muslim 2631). Islam made it a duty to educate, protect, and honor women, recognizing their vital role in family and society.

## Rights of Women in Islam:

Islam granted women rights that were revolutionary for its time, including:

- **Right to education:** The Prophet ﷺ said: 'Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, male and female.' (Ibn Majah 224).

- **Right to inheritance:** 'For men is a share of what parents and close relatives leave, and for women is a share.' (Surah An-Nisa 4:7).

- **Right to own property:** Women can buy, sell, and manage wealth independently.

- **Right to marriage and divorce:** Marriage in Islam is based on mutual consent, and women have the right to seek divorce (Khula).

- **Right to respect and protection:** Women are honored as mothers, wives, and daughters.

## The Status of Women Before Islam:

Before Islam, women were treated as property, denied education, and often buried alive at birth. Islam abolished these cruel practices and declared that all human beings,

regardless of gender, are equal in the sight of Allah. The Prophet ﷺ's teachings transformed the position of women, granting them rights and dignity never before recognized.

### **Scientific View on Women's Emotional and Physical Strength:**

Modern science acknowledges the unique emotional intelligence and resilience of women. Studies show that women are biologically designed with higher empathy, multitasking ability, and stronger immune systems. Islam recognizes these natural strengths, assigning roles that complement their nature while respecting their intellect and individuality.

### **Women's Role in Family and Society:**

In Islam, women are the foundation of family life. As mothers, they are honored above all: 'Paradise lies under the feet of mothers.' (Nasa'i 3104). As wives, they are partners in love and responsibility. As daughters, they are blessings and sources of mercy. Islam encourages women to participate in society, education, business, and charitable work — while maintaining modesty and dignity.

### **Scientific Studies on the Importance of Women:**

Research in psychology and sociology confirms that women play a central role in shaping strong families and societies. Educated women contribute to better health, education, and economic development. This aligns perfectly with Islam's emphasis on the education and empowerment of women within moral boundaries.

### **Women in Education and Knowledge:**

Islam encourages women to seek knowledge. Throughout history, many Muslim women were scholars, teachers, and poets. Aisha (RA), the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, was one of the greatest scholars of her time, teaching hundreds of Companions. Modern science also supports that educating women leads to social progress and intellectual growth.

### **Modesty and Dignity:**

Islam teaches modesty (Haya) as a virtue for both men and women. The Hijab is a symbol of respect, self-worth, and obedience to Allah. Scientific studies show that modest dressing promotes self-esteem and reduces social pressure to conform to harmful beauty standards.

### **Women in Work and Leadership:**

Islam allows women to work and hold leadership positions, as long as their duties do not compromise faith or family responsibilities. Khadijah (RA), the wife of the Prophet ﷺ, was a successful businesswoman. Modern research also shows that women bring empathy, cooperation, and creativity to workplaces, promoting balance and success.

### **Marriage and Women's Rights:**

Marriage in Islam is a partnership based on love and mercy. Women have the right to consent to marriage and to be treated with kindness and respect. The Qur'an

commands men to treat their wives honorably: 'And live with them in kindness.' (Surah An-Nisa 4:19). Modern psychology supports that mutual respect and compassion create healthy, lasting relationships.

### **Scientific Studies on Women's Health and Well-being:**

Medical science confirms that emotional stability, spiritual connection, and balanced responsibilities improve women's physical health. Islamic practices such as prayer, fasting, and modest living help reduce stress, regulate hormones, and promote mental peace.

### **Women and Spiritual Equality:**

Islam makes no distinction between men and women in their spiritual worth. Allah rewards both equally for their faith and good deeds. The Qur'an states: 'Whoever does good, male or female, and is a believer, We will grant them a good life.' (Surah An-Nahl 16:97). This equality is a cornerstone of Islam's message of justice and mercy.

### **Misconceptions About Women in Islam:**

Many misconceptions arise from cultural practices, not from Islamic teachings. Islam does not oppress women — it protects and honors them. Misuse of women's rights in some societies goes against true Islamic values, which emphasize fairness, love, and respect.

### **Summary:**

Women in Islam are honored as pillars of faith, family, and society. The Qur'an and Sunnah give them equal spiritual value, legal rights, and moral dignity. Modern science supports Islam's vision by recognizing women's intelligence, strength, and emotional depth. Islam protects women through balance — ensuring equality with respect to their natural differences. Thus, women in Islam are not confined; they are empowered, valued, and blessed by divine wisdom.